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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/772,355	01/29/2001	Richard Zodnik	155681-0014	2390

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EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/772,355

Applicant(s)

ZODNIK, RICHARD

Examiner

Eron J Sorrell

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21-23, 25-27, 29, 30 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 11, 12, 15, 18-20, 24, 28, 31-36 and 38-42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

Art Unit: 2182

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1,4,5, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Roberts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,170,926 hereinafter "Roberts").

3. Referring to claim 1, Roberts teaches a workstation, comprising:

a top (see item 11 of figure 1);

a leg that supports the top (see 20 of figure 1);

a computer located with the leg (see lines 43-59 of column

4);

4. Referring to claims 4 and 5, Roberts teaches the workstation further comprises a monitor attached to the top and

Art Unit: 2182

connected to the computer (see lines 45-57 of column 3) and a bracket that attaches the monitor to the top (see paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4).

5. Referring to claim 37, Roberts teaches a method for assembling a workstation, comprising:

plugging a computer into a leg that supports a top (See lines 43-59 of column 4).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. Claims 2, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Bryant (GB 2246456 A).

7. Referring to claim 2, Roberts fails to teach a backplane located within the leg and connected to the computer.

In an analogous apparatus, Bryant teaches a backplane located within the leg and connected to the computer (see figure C; note the computer housing functions as the leg).

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Roberts with the teachings of Bryant. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's

invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order for the user to have easy access to the modules connected to the computer system.

9. Referring to claim 9, Bryant teaches the system further comprises a keyboard coupled to the first backplane (see third full paragraph of page 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify apparatus of Roberts with the above teachings of Bryant. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification to allow for future upgrading as suggested by Bryant (see third full paragraph of page 1).

10. Referring to claim 10, Bryant teaches the first and second backplanes each including an input/output interface that is coupled to a plurality of input/output ports, the input/output ports each provide a communication path for information transmitted in accordance with a different protocol (see figure C).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the

Art Unit: 2182

apparatus of Roberts with the teachings of Bryant in order to be able to interface with several different peripheral devices.

11. Claims 13,16,17,23,25,27,29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Wantanabe (JP 41116022 A).

12. Referring claims 13, 25 and 27, Roberts teaches a workstation, comprising:

- a top (see item 11 of figure 1);

- a first leg that supports the top (see item 20 of figure 1);

- a second leg that supports the top (see any of the other legs in the figure 1);

- a first computer located with the first leg (see lines 43-59 of column 4);

- a second computer located with the second leg (see lines 43-59 of column 4).

Roberts fails to teach a router or switch located within the first leg and coupled to the first and second computers, however Roberts does suggest utilizing the group workstation as part of a LAN (see lines 25-39 of column 6).

Wantanabe teaches, in an analogous apparatus, a switch/router coupled to the first and second computers (see abstract; note that a switch and router are functionally equivalent.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Roberts with the teachings of Wantanabe by connecting a switch or router to the computers and placing the switch or router in the legs taught by Roberts. One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that networking devices such as routers and switches are used in LAN networks to efficiently transfer data and placing them in the legs will allow them to be secured and out of the way.

13. Referring to claims 16,17,29, and 30, Roberts teaches the workstation further comprises a first and second monitor attached to the top and connected to the first and second computers (see lines 45-57 of column 3) and a bracket that attaches the first and second monitors to the top (see paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4).

14. Referring to claim 23, Roberts teaches a single cable coupled to the first leg (see 7-45 of column 5).

15. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Bryant as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Wantanabe (JP 11216022 A).

16. Referring to claim 3, the combination of Roberts and Bryant fails to teach a router attached to the backplane and located within the leg, however Roberts suggests utilizing the group workstation in a LAN environment (see lines 25-39 of column 6).

Wantanabe teaches, in an analogous system, a router/switch for use in a group workstation LAN environment (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Roberts and Bryant with the above teachings of Wantanabe. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order use the group workstation in a LAN as suggested by Roberts.

17. Claims 14,21,22, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Wantanabe (JP 411216022 A) as applied to claims 13 and 25 above, and further in view of Bryant.



Art Unit: 2182

18. Referring to claim 14, the combination of Roberts and Wantanabe fails to teach first and second backplanes located within the first and second legs and connected to the first and second computers, respectively.

In an analogous apparatus, Bryant teaches first and second backplanes located within the first and second legs and connected to the first and second computers, respectively (see figure C; note the computer housing functions as the leg).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Roberts with the teachings of Bryant. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order for the user to have easy access to the modules connected to the computer system.

19. Referring to claim 21, Bryant teaches the system further comprises a keyboard coupled to the first backplane (see third full paragraph of page 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Roberts and Wantanabe with the above teachings of Bryant. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been

Art Unit: 2182

motivated to make such modification to allow for future upgrading as suggested by Bryant (see third full paragraph of page 1).

20. Referring to claim 22 and 26, Bryant teaches the first and second backplanes each including an input/output interface that is coupled to a plurality of input/output ports, the input/output ports each provide a communication path for information transmitted in accordance with a different protocol (see figure C).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Roberts and Wantanabe in order to be able to interface with several different peripheral devices.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

21. Claims 6-8, 11, 12, 15, 18-20, 24, 28, 31-36, and 38-42 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Conclusion**

22. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references have been cited to further show the state of the art as it pertains to computer workstations:

U.S. Patent No. 6,102,476 to May et al. teaches a workstation with a computer in the leg (see figure 5);

U.S. Patent No. 6,115,240 to Kaneko teaches a computer housed within a workstation.

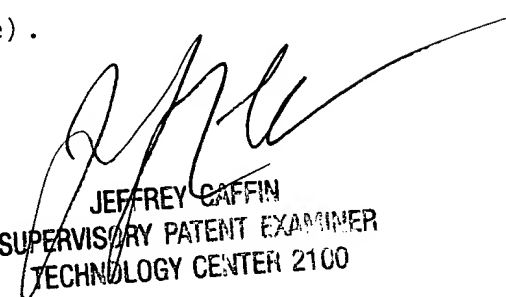
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J Sorrell whose telephone number is 703 305-7800. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 703 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

**Effective October 13, 2004, the examiner can be reached at 571 272-4160 and the examiner's supervisor can be reached at 571 272-4146.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EJS  
September 2, 2004



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